



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 18, 2026, we celebrate World Mission Sunday, the Church's annual day of prayer and sacrifice, coordinated by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith to support the 1,130 mission dioceses across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Oceania, and the Middle East.

This World Mission Sunday marks the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1926, providing a historic opportunity to celebrate it with renewed missionary zeal. For this significant centenary, Pope Leo XIV chose the theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission." Reflecting on this theme invites each of us to rediscover the profound unity we share in Christ through baptism and how our baptismal identity overflows into the mission of bringing others into communion with God and with one another.

In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we celebrate this notable anniversary during our bicentennial year, giving it additional significance, as our own archdiocese was aided by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith when we were a mission diocese 200 years ago. The Society continued to provide funds for the growing archdiocese, including support for the Old Cathedral, where we can still worship to this very day.

Today, we too take part in this great work, supporting the missionaries, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay leaders who are planting the Church throughout the world.

We celebrate this occasion following the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen here in St. Louis on September 24. Having served as the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States for 16 years, Archbishop Sheen reminds us of the importance of the missions. He repeatedly said, "My greatest love has always been for the missions of the Church." Throughout his tenure, he poured his talents into World Mission Sunday and diligently distributed its proceeds to the missions.

I pray that World Mission Sunday will be a blessing for our archdiocese and help foster a greater zeal for the missions within each of us. Let us pray together that the Holy Spirit will renew in us the fire of the early Church, that we might truly be "One in Christ, United in Mission," continually deepening our relationship with Christ so that we may journey forth together, sharing the Gospel with the whole world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis